

d.) Remarks

Claims 1 and 21 have been amended in order to recite the present invention with the specificity required by statute. Additionally, both the specification and claims 12 and 17 are amended in order to correct word processing errors. The subject matter of the amendment may be found in the specification as filed, *inter alia*, from page 46, line 17 to page 47, line 4, page 52, lines 1-3 and Table 2 therebelow. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

The drawings are objected to as failing to illustrate lack of intersection of groove x with the intersection of the y and z grooves. In response, a new formal drawing is being filed currently herewith together with a suitable amendment providing a brief description. No new matter is added

Claims 1 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Applicants' prior U.S. Patent No. 6,318,866 (Mimura). Claims 2-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Mimura.

In support of the rejection, the Examiner states Mimura discloses:

“the V-groove vertical plane does not form a constant angle in the reflective lateral face but the lateral face forms a curved and/or multiple surface (Fig. 8; i.e., the multiple surface is due to the differing angle of groove depth and multiple direction cuts as shown in the figures).” (Office Action at page 3, lines 18-21.)

This finding, respectfully submitted, is incorrect. The invention defined by pending claim 1 clearly distinguishes all embodiments of Mimura, as explained below.

That is, Mimura's '866 patent relates to a triangular-pyramidal cube-corner retroreflective sheeting providing giving a slight deviation (offset) to the pitch of

x-directional grooves (among the three sets of x-, y- and z-directional parallel grooves) so as to form asymmetric pairs of elements. The reflective planes of V-shaped grooves are formed at a constant angle with reflective lateral faces in Fig. 8 of the '866 patent and the reflective lateral faces do not form "a curved and/or multiple surfaces" as recited in the pending claims.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the Examiner's concerns are now overcome and the claims are now in allowable condition. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1-21 remain presented for continued prosecution. Rejoinder of subgeneric claims 7-20 is respectfully requested upon allowance of generic linking claim 21.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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